

NEWS RELEASE

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Subject: Children's Hospital of Illinois trains ten central Illinois schools on bike and pedestrian safety programming March 31 and April 1, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(April 13, 2009) In 2007 Children's Hospital of Illinois Advocacy Department submitted a grant proposal to the Illinois Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program. The proposal requested \$50,000 to create a bike and pedestrian train the trainer grant program for schools in Central Illinois. This program would provide ten school teams in Central Illinois with a monetary grant of \$2500.00, a tool kit with bike and pedestrian safety equipment, teaching materials, and promotional supplies, along with supplemental lesson plans aligned with Illinois State Standards.

In November 2008 Children's Hospital of Illinois notified all schools in Central Illinois of the available grant. Ten schools from Central Illinois were awarded the grant and those schools are: Astoria Elementary School, Astoria, IL; Bushnell Prairie City Elementary School, Bushnell, IL; Harristown Elementary School, Harristown, IL; Illiopolis Elementary School, Illiopolis, IL; Lostant School, Lostant, IL; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, Urbana, IL; Mahomet Seymour School District, Mahomet, IL; Norwood Primary School, Peoria, IL; Roosevelt Elementary School, Moline, IL; St. Patrick School, Washington, IL.

The ten schools were trained on bike and pedestrian programming on Tuesday, March 31 and Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at Bike Safety Town in Peoria, IL. The training focused on using the Five E's of injury prevention to implement Safe Routes concepts into their schools. All five E's were explained in detail through lecture and activities. School teams developed an evaluation and work plan to take back to their schools and start implementing the program.

The grant implementation by the schools is April 1, 2009 through January 30, 2010. This timeline will allow the schools to coordinate events in both spring and fall, while educating in the classroom year round. The materials provided in the tool kits and lesson plans may be used to continue the program after the grant cycle is completed by the schools.